Shrinky Dinks

Kit contains:

- #6 Plastic cup
- Permanent marker
- Foil

You will need: scissors, a pencil, a ruler, a cookie sheet, an oven or toaster oven, and ADULT SUPERVISION.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Preheat oven/toaster oven to 325° F.

Step 2: Cut your plastic cup into different shapes. Decorate with permanent marker.

Step 3: Measure your shapes. Now record some data in the chart! Sketch the starting shapes of your shrinky dinks and note the original sizes.

Step 4: Cover your cookie sheet/baking tray with tin foil. Bake your shrinky dinks one at a time for 1-3 minutes. Be sure to note your bake times in the chart.

Step 5: Observe the changes in your shrinky dinks. Did they curl or uncurl? Did they change size? Sketch, measure, and record the data in your chart!

Tip: If you punch a hole in a shrinky dink before baking, you can string it as a necklace, bracelet, or keychain.

SHRINKY DINK DATA

Draw Your Original Shape	Original Size (cm)	Bake Time (1-3 minutes)

COLLECTION CHART

Draw Your New Shape	New Size (cm)	Notes

HOW IT WORKS

The original Shrinky Dinks craft kit was invented by a pair of moms for their local Cub Scout troop. It used sheets of polystyrene (#6 plastic) that shrank in the oven like magic! During the manufacturing process, raw polystyrene is heated, rolled out into thin sheets, and then rapidly cooled so that it can retain its shape.

By nature, the polymer chains within the polystyrene are bunched up and randomly clumped together, but the heating, rolling, and cooling process forces them to straighten out into a more orderly configuration. All the polymers want to do is bounce back into their more disorderly arranged. They are able to do this when the polystyrene is heated again.

If you find #6 plastic in your recycling, you can use it to make more Shrinky Dinks.

(Source: smithsonianmag.com)